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Volume 46 November 1996 Number 4

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Flashback is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Send all material for publication to the editor at 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. There is no payment for articles published in *Flashback*. The Editor retains the right to edit all submitted articles prior to publication.

Membership is invited of those interested in the preservation of Washington County's history. Dues are $15 annually. Donations, tax deductible according to current law, are gratefully received any time for special projects. Members are mailed *Flashback* every quarter. Past issues cost $5 each, current year's issues, $4 each.

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Cover photo: Washington (Elementary) School in Fayetteville, early 1900s, actual date unknown. *Photograph from Washington County Historical Society files.*

FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 46 November 1996 Number 4

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FLASHBACK is published and mailed four times a year—the first week in February, May, August, and November. Articles for *Flashback* should be submitted 60 days before the publishing date of each issue. Acceptable articles will be published in the next available issue, provided there is space.

COPY to be printed in *Flashback* may be submitted in one of several ways: 1) furnished on computer disc, preferably in WordPerfect for either Macintosh or a PC, 2) by e-mail to the editor at [dschaefe@comp.uark.edu] or [WCHS@aol.com], or 3) cleanly typed copy that can be optically scanned. Text copy, photos, and artwork are all assembled on a computer. We welcome letters or e-mail messages that tell us of planned articles or inquire about Society activities.

The Man Behind the Name of Fayetteville

Excerpted by Keith Newhouse from a paper by Eugene Smith of Springdale that he read to the LaFayette Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution March 9, 1996. Fayetteville is one of the many cities in the United States named for the Marquis de Lafayette. This is the last of a two-part series.

Part II

Prominent officials were now ready to advance help toward the American struggle. Lafayette now felt he was the tie between America and France. He wrote Washington, "If there is anything in France concerning which, not only as a soldier but as a politician, or in any other capacity, I can employ my exertions to the advantage of the United States, I hope it is unnecessary to say I shall seize the opportunity and bless the day which shall render me useful to those whom I love with all the ardor and frankness of my heart."

General Washington's reply was an invitation to Lafayette and his wife to visit Mt. Vernon. The Marchioness was never able to take advantage of this gracious offer. Adrienne, now 19 years old, was a high-minded woman, completely sympathetic to her husband's ideals. Therefore, she cheerfully laid aside her own wishes. No one ever heard a complaint from her loyal lips.

In December of 1779 the family welcomed the birth of a son who was named George Washington.

Lafayette received many testimonials from his state-side friends. One was a sword, richly ornamented, with handle of solid gold, sent him by the American Congress. Benjamin Franklin was entrusted with the design and manufacture of this magnificent gift. It was engraved with his coat of arms, representative of actions in which he had taken part, plus his chosen motto, *Cur non?* (Why not?)

This ornate gift in time met with bad luck. When the French Revolutionists tore through the Chateau de Chaviniac, the sword was buried for safekeeping and was hidden for many years. When the son, George Washington Lafayette, grew to manhood, he unearthed the memento and found the blade totally rusted away. Young Lafayette had a blade made from bolts and bars from the Bastille, and adjusted the pure gold handle to the new blade, so the two struggles for freedom were commemorated in one historic sword.

Lafayette now made an extreme appeal to the French cabinet for relief to America. His plan, from a military standpoint, was masterly, producing such a fine impression it was immediately accepted. France was to send a reinforcement of six ships and six thousand regular infantry. A most welcome loan of 3,000,000 livres (francs) accompanied the offer and later Franklin arranged another loan of like amount. Count de Rochambeau was to command the land forces and Count de Ternay was the admiral in charge of the fleet.

Sets Sail Back to America

Lafayette went ahead to announce this bonanza and prepare the way for its arrival. Wearing the uniform of an American officer, Lafayette took leave of his king on

March 4, 1780 and sailed on the frigate *Hermione*, returning to Boston April 28, 1780 after 15 months away. Our French friend went directly to Washington's headquarters at Morristown, New Jersey, with his happy news. Then he went on to Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, with the communique from the French government.

Lafayette Leads Successful Virginia Campaign

The Virginia campaign is ranked among the classic military maneuvers of all time, with Lafayette its notable leader. On April 6, 1781, Washington gave his young chief full instructions. Technically, Lafayette had been taking orders from General Greene who was in charge of the South, including Virginia. By May 18, Lafayette had orders to take entire command of Virginia and report directly to General Washington. Shortly, Lafayette pushed the British, little by little, down the York River toward Yorktown. It became a procedure even the British described as the "constant and good policy of the enemy." On September 24, 1781, Cornwallis occupied Yorktown and prepared its defense.

Yorktown is near the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, where the York and the James Rivers enter the bay. On a conspicuous bluff on the northern side of a neck of land between them stood this small town. Lafayette watched the preparations and was pleased. He felt Cornwallis was at last digging himself into a place where he would be open to attack. On the 4th of September, Lafayette took a position closer to the town. General Washington arrived to take over supreme command, and the siege began October 6, 1781.

The British tried to escape by sea but failed. A violent storm drove the boats back to shore. October 17, Cornwallis sent a note to Washington asking for cessation of hostilities for 24 hours to settle terms for surren-

der. Three days after the surrender, Lafayette was on board the *Ville de Paris* in Chesapeake Bay. Congress gave him leave of absence. The *Alliance* awaited him in Boston harbor for his trip home.

He arrived back in France as the hero of the New World and then became the hero of the Old. Louis XVI made him a Field Marshal. With his new rank, he was sent to Cadiz, Spain. There he received the news of a treaty signed in Paris between England and the United States. He wanted to be the courier of this longed-for announcement, but his presence was required for negotiations in Madrid. He was allowed to send a ship *Le Triomphe* from his fleet. It was the first messenger to tell of the peace on our shores.

Lafayette Honored As Hero in America

During his visit to America in 1784 the people showed their gratitude to a true friend in time of need. A visit of ten days at Mt. Vernon was spent in mutual admiration. New York, Boston, and Fredericksburg, Virginia all showed him the affection of his companions in arms. He went as far north as Portsmouth and south to Yorktown, visiting the great battlefields. States vied with one another in giving his name to towns and villages. Today there are nine Fayettevilles in the U.S., one Fayette City, six Fayettes, and eight Lafayettes. This does not count the counties or townships.

He spoke his farewell to Congress at Trenton, New Jersey, where he gave his often-quoted "Prayer": "May this immense Temple of Freedom ever stand a lesson to oppressors, an example to the oppressed, and a sanctuary for the rights of mankind! And may these happy United States attain that complete splendor and prosperity which will illustrate the blessings of their government, and in ages to come rejoice the departed souls of their founders."

Caught in Revolution in France

Shortly after his return to France, he became deeply involved in France's revolution. He defended the king and queen. Lafayette was an organizer and commander of the National Guard. He founded a society of political moderates who advocated a constitutional monarchy. In 1792 he headed an army in France's war against Austria. Declared a traitor by the Jacobins, he fled to Flanders. Arrested by the Austrians, occupiers of Flanders at the time, he was thrown in prison at Olmutz, Austria, for five years.

Lafayette's many friends, including General Washington, tried to work out his release. Meanwhile, innumerable secret plans were hatched to effect his rescue. A Hanoverian doctor named Dr. Bollman, and a very young American named Francis Kinlock Huger (Ugee) joined in one scheme. Huger first met Lafayette when the Frenchman landed at Prospect Hill, near Charleston, South Carolina, on the Huger estate. Huger was eight years old then.

The rescue attempted by these two was an utter failure and they were put in prison. Intervention by General Thomas Pinkney, American minister in London, rescued them finally.

A decree of Napoleon Bonaparte eventually gave Lafayette his freedom. The French hero was taken in a carriage from Olmutz to Dresden and then on to Hamburg, where the American consul took him in.

The health of Madame Lafayette was precarious. A trip to America was out of the question. Her mother, grandmother, and sister had, along with many of their friends and relatives, been guillotined. The family took refuge in an obscure town in Holland, since no other European country would give refuge to any man who bore the name Lafayette.

Lafayette Returns to America in 1824

The Marquis wished to revisit his adopted land. Forty years old when liberated, he was 67 when he paid his last visit here. He landed in New York City on August 16, 1824. He was overwhelmed by his reception, a burst of wholehearted welcome from an entire nation.

Hundreds of invitations from all over the country poured in. With great ceremony, Congress received Lafayette. Later, he was voted a gift of $200,000, plus an entire township anywhere he might choose in the unappropriated land of our country.

Upon his return to his native land, he lived for years in semi-exile on an estate known as LaGrange which his wife had inherited. Forty miles east of Paris, it lay in lovely country, covered by peach orchards and vineyards. The 800 acres had been sadly neglected. Starting with a single plow at first, being too poor to buy other farm tools, Lafayette slowly developed the place into a valuable farm. It came with an old mansion built in the days of Louis IX. His two daughters and their families joined in the very efficiently run household.

The walls were covered with pictures and memorabilia. In the place of honor was Washington's picture. The Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Rights hung side by side. Even the name of the estate—LaGrange—was American, in honor of the Manhattan Island home of his friend, Alexander Hamilton.

One room was more sacred than any other—the chamber where Madame Lafayette had died. It was never entered except on the anniversary of her death, and then by her husband alone. He cherished her memory tenderly and faithfully, as long as he lived.

He died May 20, 1834. Bells tolled for him worldwide. ❖

WILLIAM C. MORTON

Pilot of B-25 Medium Bomber
447th Bomb Squadron, 321st Bomb Group, 12th Air Force

by Keith Newhouse

Bill's family has long been tied to Washington County. The following confirming history was written sometime around the turn of the century:

"William H. Morton, farmer and stock breeder of Center Township, Washington County, Arkansas, was born in Washington County July 28, 1861, and is a son of James A. and Harriet Tollett Morton, and grandson of William Morton. The latter was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, and in 1830 immigrated to Arkansas, locating near Prairie Grove, where he became a wealthy farmer. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and was very strongly opposed to slavery.

"James A. Morton was the eldest son of a family of five children and grew to manhood in Washington County. He was educated in the common schools, and in 1860 was married to Miss Tollett and located on a farm. In 1861 he was strongly opposed to secession, but when the war began he joined the Confederate army and served until the close of the conflict. He was captured about 1862, and was kept a prisoner at St. Louis, Alton, Rock Island, and New Orleans until the close of the war. He then returned home to find that his property had all been destroyed, but he immediately set to work and became one of the wealthy land owners of the county. He died in 1884.

"His wife, who was the daughter of Henry Tollett, became the mother of three children: William H., Roland M. and James E., and is now making her home with her son, William H., who was reared on a farm in Washington County. He received a good education in

the State University, located in Fayetteville, and in 1884 was married to Miss Bettie Smith, who was born near Farmington in 1863. They have three children: Herbert, Julia, and an infant. (There were actually five children born of the marriage of William H. Morton and Bettie Smith, the youngest of which was William Claiborne Morton, father of William C. Morton, Jr. At the time this article was written, there were only three.) Mr. Morton's farm consists of 230 acres and is well improved. He is one of the leading stock breeders and fruit raisers of the county and has charge of the fine Clydesdale stallion and a jack of the mammoth stock. He and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and he is a young man of good habits, and is an active Democrat. He was elected a justice of the peace in Center Township at the September election in 1888."

William C. "Bill" Morton, Jr. on March 29, 1946 married Mary Margaret Bowen, whose father ran the J. C. Penney Store on the Square in Fayetteville for years. Their children are: George Bowen Morton ("Bo"), born January 19, 1948; Michael William Morton ("Mike"), born April 26, 1952; and Robert Claiborne Morton ("Rob"), born April 20, 1957.

Joins Army Air Corps July 4, 1942

Pearl Harbor's ordeal on December 7, 1941, found Bill Morton in Fayetteville's City Hospital. He did wind up with a low draft number, being young and single, so he decided to take what action he could on his own behalf by volunteering for the Army Air Corps cadet program, joining up around the 4th of July, 1942, at Muskogee, Okla.

He found there was a glut of cadets caused by lack of air instructors and severe strains in the training camps,

again because of shortage of personnel. It wasn't until February, 1943, that he received orders to check into the Pacific Coast Training Command at Santa Ana, Calif., to start his experience with military life.

He left Oklahoma February 1, 1943, on a troop train, some of the old railroad rolling stock from the early part of the century. No air conditioning, of course, but it was the mohair upholstery with horsehair padding that was a torture device only the devil could conceive. It gave all the comfort of putting your back against a bramble patch with blast furnace air blowing cinders and dirt through the lowered windows. Even in February the old train was hot, particularly through the desert southwest.

Throughout his training—King City, Chico, winding up at Yuma, Ariz. for advanced training where he won his wings as a member of the class of 43-K in November, 1943—the temperatures remained hot, hot, and hotter.

His transition flying for twin-engine bombardment (B-25 Mitchells) took him to Mather field at Sacramento, Calif., following by B-25 combat training at Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, S.C. There he became familiar with the B-25 medium bombers' use in combat from instructor pilots who, themselves, were veterans of combat tours out of England, Corsica, North Africa, the Pacific Islands, and the famous Doolittle raid over Tokyo. Finally, he was given a crew, designated first pilot, and assigned overseas.

Morton's B-25 Crew Flies to Corsica

As a crew they were off across the Caribbean, down into South America, ending up in Natal, Brazil. There he was delayed for two weeks waiting for an engine change. They crossed the Atlantic with stops at Ascension Island, North Africa, and on to Corsica, a French island west of Italy, north of Sardinia.

Napoleon's exile place on Elba was a tiny spot between Corsica and Italy.

While his status as a first pilot, in command from the left seat, was acknowledged, no bomber pilots entered combat flying in B-25s without sitting first as a co-pilot during early missions. It mattered not what his rank or flying experience was.

Bill Morton flew his first combat mission September 1, 1944, as co-pilot in a lead crew. That month he was on twelve missions. At the time, his outfit required 60 missions as a minimum, 70 as a maximum, to qualify for a completed tour. He rode as co-pilot in lead ships with several different crews for six weeks until October 13, 1944.

The quarters on Corsica were just "camping-out" four-place tents. The first thing the tents' occupants did for making a "home" from what they had to work with was to put in a wood floor and walls. They scrounged some wooden siding which, when installed, cut down on drafts, allowing the meager stove to warm the place much more comfortably. The immediate area where Morton's and one other tent were situated became known fondly as "The Cork Tree Community" as those tents were clustered near a large cork tree so numerous on Corsica.

"Cork Tree Community" tent

The 321st Bomb Group (and other groups) of medium bombers (B-25 Mitchells) were charged with clearing

A formation of B-25s from the 447th Squadron on mission

the Po Valley and the Brenner Pass of highway bridges and railroad bridges to cripple the movement of supplies to German troops in Italy. To really eliminate a bridge it was necessary to bomb out the deep center pier. Unless it was eliminated, the efficient German engineers could quickly erect a temporary crossing.

Bill was assigned to the 447th Squadron (of the 321st Group) stationed on the southeastern coast of Corsica, and used the town of LaSpezia, Italy, as landfall (checkpoint) for the majority of runs into Italy. They flew all of their missions at 10,000 to 13,500 feet altitude. At first, major highway and rail bridges were made primary targets in the Po Valley, but after November 1944 the medium bombers were assigned the job of stopping the flow of supplies down the Brenner Pass through the Alps from Austria to Italy. The B-25s and their P-47 escorts were most efficient in neutralizing all of "The Pass" for 100 consecutive days, making it useless for the Krauts to transport anything through there.

A Mission He Won't Forget

On November 10, 1944, Mort (everyone was called by the first syllable of their last name) was sent with his 447th Squadron to bomb the bridge at Ostiglia. It was his 17th mission, one of his most remembered.

In every European theater there were some really experienced German anti-aircraft (AA) gunners. These guys, some of whom had served from the beginning of the war, had a well-earned reputation of being capable of putting their shells in one's back pocket with their very first rounds. The Po Valley and the Brenner Pass had many clusters of these feared experts. Morton had been harassed by them time and again. In Italy they were respectfully named "The Green Hill Boys," outstanding specialists with the 88mm anti-aircraft guns. They seemed at first to headquarter at Ostiglia.

As Mission No. 17 settled into its bombing run, Morton watched the lead plane, just ahead of and above his three-ship element, being riddled by the bursts of 88s being hurled into the formation of B-25s by those "Green Hill Boys." That plane, belching gasoline, was able to continue leading the flight back to Corsica; however, Mort's plane suffered severe damage at the same time, losing some right side armor plate, plus receiving a direct blow to the right engine, causing it to lose all its oil so it had to be feathered. By throwing everything overboard that would come loose, Mort managed to hold 7,000 feet of altitude on one engine as he watched what was left of the flight flee to Corsica.

His crippled bomber was approaching the coastal mountain range, headed south toward Corsica, over what was supposed to be a flak-free course. Mort could see the sun's reflection in the Mediterranean Sea when a huge, single burst of flak appeared well off the left wing, too far to do any damage. It was certainly not the

General Knapp awarding Bill Morton the Distinguished Flying Cross for the Ostiglia mission

"Green Hill Boys" doing the shooting, the crew thought. Just then another exploded just above the feathered engine. No one had on a flak vest or helmet–they had all been jettisoned. This second burst send shrapnel crashing through the cockpit. It knocked the co-pilot's headset off and cut a part through his hair.

Mort knew it was time to get out of there, so he dropped the nose of the B-25 down to pick up speed and turned into the dead engine. Sure enough, there was no flak there as they skimmed over the top of the coastal range, leaving the cousins of the "Green Hill Boys" on the enemy's side of the mountain.

Once over the water, the crew breathed a sigh of relief, knowing no one could be shooting at them.

But—that mission wasn't over yet! Four armed 1000-pound bombs were stuck in the bomb bay, and no maneuver Mort and his bombardier tried would dislodge the bombs. Mort desperately sent his engineer gunner to try to kick them out. Nothing doing! There was no choice. This ill-fated B-25 had to be landed with hung-up bombs in the bomb-bay. No hard landings here, no second chance, just land it smoothly—on the first try.

There was an emergency landing field at the north end of Corsica. Mort chose it over flying to the 321st regular field farther south. Through crosswinds, downdrafts, and all the other hazards, the landing was one of those rare ones that no one in the plane could even feel as it was simply "painted" on the runway. That, with a 50-mile truck ride back to the 447th Squadron area put to an end one of the missions that continue to stand out in Morton's memory.

This is the last bomb run for plane #327506 on mission No. 39. Thirty minutes after this picture was taken, the crew had to bail out.

The 39th was a "Nickeling Mission"

Morton's 39th mission was another one that got strung out over a long time. Starting on January 27, 1945, it was a "Nickeling Mission"; the only such mission he flew during his tour. For a "Nickeling Mission," the plane was loaded with special light-skinned bombs that were filled with propaganda leaflets. Over Poreta, Italy, some "Green Hill" graduates poured a few heavy 88s into the right engine of the B-25 he was flying. The loss of that engine presented a serious problem. The only way back to the coast would be through the overcast. Mort would not be able to stay above it on one engine. Additionally, there was the ever present danger of wing icing in the overcast. They were threading through a valley with peaks up to 6500 feet on either side. They would be lucky to maintain 7000 feet, even by throwing overboard everything not absolutely critical to flight.

With all the post-bombing chores attended to, there was nothing more Mort could do but concentrate on keeping the badly wounded aircraft in flight toward their primary destination, the Mediterranean coast.

He knew the plane wouldn't trim properly; it was not his regularly scheduled plane, but a real lemon substitute. After half an hour in the soup ice formed on the leading edge of the wings; he was rapidly losing altitude and was now below 6500 feet, so he ordered the crew to bail out. It is at best not an easy exit for a pilot to extricate himself from the B-25's left (pilot) seat. With help from his co-pilot, he managed to be the last to leave, just in time. He made one arching swing, earning his membership in the Caterpillar Club, and hit the ground with his butt. He's had back trouble throughout his life from this inept landing.

The first contact with friendlies was a Major Adair in charge of infantry at the front lines. The major wanted

to know how many men bailed out. Mort claimed six had escaped. The American officer just wondered because he already had 22 reported sightings from natives and troops all over the terrain.

Bombadier Lankester and pilot Morton returning to "Cork Tree Community" after Nickeling Mission.

The entire crew landed just inside friendly lines. Our allies in this area were Brazilians. The top general sought out the commander of the lost aircraft and, at his insistence, Mort spent the evening as his dinner guest. The following day with Lankester (Lank, his bombardier and a senior member of the Cork Tree Community) and other crew members, Bill started back to base. Four days after parachuting, Lank and Mort made their triumphant return to Cork Tree Community, their sanctuary.

On his many missions, Morton and his crew regularly crossed over Lake Garda on their way to targets in the Brenner Pass and back. Towns he remembers as checkpoints or on other bombing runs were Pavia, Borgo San Lorenzo, Firenzoula, Ostiglia, Bologna, Romano and Rimini. By April 26, 1945 (very nearly the end of the war in Europe), he had completed 62 missions—which was considered a completed tour. ❖

TRAIL OF TEARS
"nuna-da-ul-tsun-yi"

by Linda Fields Oxford

As early as 1802, Thomas Jefferson first proposed the concept of moving the southern Indians west of the Mississippi. Throughout the years white settlers encroached on Indian lands and demanded title. Despite efforts by the Indians to adopt white men's ways, harassment continued.

In 1830, with the support of President Andrew Jackson, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. Between 1830 and 1832, all but the Cherokees signed treaties and moved west to what is presently eastern Oklahoma. Twice the Cherokees fought their battle to the Supreme Court. Although the second decision declared that the United States government must protect the Indians, Jackson failed to enforce the decision, and State and local officials confiscated Indian lands. By 1835, with some Cherokees wandering about the nation homeless and some of means having voluntarily departed to join the Old Settlers in the Cherokee Nation West, a small faction of Cherokees realized that their troubles with Georgia would end only with removal. Notable members of this faction were Major John Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot (Buck Watie), and Stand Watie.

Some Cherokees Sign Treaty of New Echota

Although they knew there was opposition to removal from Chief John Ross and his followers, about three hundred Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota in the home of Elias Boudinot. By the terms of the treaty, the nation would cede its eastern territory for five million dollars, be guaranteed western lands partly occupied by the Old Settlers, and would never become part of anoth-

er state or territory without Cherokee consent. Also, the Federal Government would pay the cost of removal and provide one year's subsistence upon arrival in Indian Territory. The treaty further granted preemption rights to each head of a family who chose to remain in the east for 160 acres of land to be located in the states of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. President Jackson struck out this provision before it was sent to the Senate for approval. In 1835 a minority faction, the Ridge Treaty Party speaking for the whole tribe, signed the removal treaty and moved west. This was done against the majority's knowledge or approval.

Road to West Becomes "nuna-da-ul-tsun-yi"

During 1837 and 1838, government soldiers moved the Indians into stockades and then forcibly moved them west by land and water. Thousands, died along the "Trail of Tears." The Trail of Tears is the name that has been given to the overland route used in 1838-39 for the forced removal of the Indians to Indian Territory, (now Oklahoma). This route has been identified by the Indians as "nuna-da-ul-tsun-yi" which translates into "the trail where they cried." The term refers both to the broken spirits of the people leaving an ancestral home and the high death rate that occurred during the rounding up of the people from homes and farms, the confinement in stockades, and the forced march during the summer of 1838 and winter of 1838-39.

History has recorded the sufferings of peoples whose country was conquered and controlled by foreign invaders. For the Indians who were not only subjected to this invasion but to removal also, there was additional suffering. Indians possessed an inherited conception of the land of their birth as the repository of those spiritual links to their ancestors which were holy. In many tribal

religions, ever spring, waterfall, mountain, cave, or lake had special supernatural significance. When whole tribes were removed, they lost not only their homeland but their basic spiritual landmarks as well. In addition, much of Cherokee medicine as well as many religious potions, were based upon the gathering and preparation of certain kinds of herbs and flowers not always available in the Indian Territory, (now Oklahoma). It is doubtful if we can understand the sense of grief and desolation that overwhelmed the Indians when they were compelled to leave all these behind forever.

The Cherokee Trail of Tears draws its significance from the Indian removal policy adopted by the United States government in the 1830s. Designed to avoid frontier conflict between Indians and whites, and as a humane means of protecting Indians from the damaging effect of white contact, such as measles, cholera, etc., Indian removal instead marked a tragic chapter in American history. Although the policy applied to most of the tribes east of the Mississippi River, the Five Civilized Tribes attracted the greatest attention because they responded by adopting aspects of white culture and seeking relief in the American judicial system. Thus, Indian removal has come to denote the forceful removal of the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles. The experience of the Cherokees, because they fought in the Supreme Court rather than on the battlefield, has come, for white Americans, to represent the experience of all.

Trail of Tears a Symbol of Removal

The Trail of Tears provides tangible evidence of the response of U.S federal officials to events arising from the westward movement. As American settlers pushed west from the Atlantic coast, conflicts arose with the

native tribes. Indians resented and resisted white intrusion on their communal lands. A series of laws and treaties aimed at eliminating the friction laid the groundwork for the evolution of American Indian Policy. As more whites infringed on Indian rights and disregarded Federal laws and specific treaties, the policy of Indian removal took shape. Presidents Jefferson through Jackson and their representatives pressured Indian tribes to exchange their traditional tribal territory for land west of the Mississippi. Underestimating Indian attachment to their land, the removal policy led to war, Supreme Court decisions, tragic hardships, and suffering.

The Cherokee Trail of Tears also symbolized major constitutional issues resulting from the Indian removal policy. In *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*, Chief Justice John Marshall admitted concern for the Cherokees and recognized their unquestionable right to their lands. Further, he perceived Indians as "domestic dependent nations" that might look to the Federal Government for protection and assistance. Although Marshall held that the supreme court lacked jurisdiction to help the Cherokees, his decision set precedent and defined the legal status of Indians for generations to come.

The second Supreme Court decision, *Worcester v. Georgia*, clearly declared the unconstitutionality of any state extending its laws over Indian nations, for the Constitution vested all intercourse with Indians in the federal government. While neither decision prevented the removal of the Cherokees to Indian Territory, both structured Indian policy to the present day.

The court decisions led to still another crisis in American history—States rights. When the Cherokees adopted their own constitution, the State of Georgia felt its rights threatened and responded by extending its laws over the Cherokee Nation. After Marshall ruled this

unconstitutional, Georgia ignored the decision. President Andrew Jackson was contending with the nullification crisis in South Carolina and he feared that Georgia would join her neighbor in the battle with Federal authority. As a result, he was reluctant to enforce the Supreme Court's decision and believed that he lacked authority to coerce Georgia to abide by the ruling. Congress and even Indian sympathizers agreed that preservation of the Union was more important than the rights of the Cherokees.

Trail Commemorates Indian Response

The Trail of Tears also commemorates the unique Indian response to Indian removal. First, the people adopted white practices. They took up agriculture, domestic arts, formal education, and Christianity. They spoke English, invented their own written language, published newspapers, owned slaves, maintained plantations, and intermarried with white settlers. They even adopted a written constitution patterned after that of the United States. When confronted with harassment from white settlers and Georgia state laws, they neither submitted quietly nor went to war. Instead, they used the American political and judicial systems. They lobbied Congress, and they appealed to the Supreme Court, not once but twice. Unfortunately for all, the U.S. judicial system failed them miserably.

The Trail of Tears migration flowed over more than one route. First, the army rounded up resisting Indians and guarded them in stockades. Next, the military escorted nearly 3,000 into boats to follow the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, and Arkansas Rivers. Disease, low water, stifling heat, lack of food and supplies, and drought caused great hardship, disease, and death.

Three groups left in the summer of 1838, traveling

from present-day Chattanooga by rail, boat and wagon, primarily on the Water Route. But river levels were too low for navigation; one group, traveling overland in Arkansas, suffered three to five deaths a day due to illness and drought. Fifteen thousand captives still awaited removal. Crowding, poor sanitation, and drought made them miserable. As a result, the Cherokee Council, headed by Chief John Ross, requested permission to take over the removal in the fall of 1838 and led his people on the Trail of Tears.

General Winfield Scott, who was in charge of the removal, agreed—provided they remain in the internment camps until travel resumed. At the end of the long drought, in October 1838, 13,000 Cherokees divided into thirteen contingents, departed along an overland route through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas to Indian Territory.

Because of the severity of the winter, the lack of proper food, clothing, supplies, and the minimal medical care, many died. Some scholars have placed the death toll for removal—from stockade to trail to Indian Territory—at 4,000, or nearly one-fourth of the nation; other scholars give an even higher number. Grant Foreman, James Mooney of the Smithsonian, and Emmet Starr have placed the death total around 4,000. The total number of Cherokees to be removed has been estimated at between 15,000 (Foreman) and 17,000 (Mooney). By March 1839, all survivors had arrived in the West. No one knows how many died throughout the ordeal, but the trip was especially hard on infants, children, and the elderly. Missionary Dr. Elizur Butler, who accompanied the Cherokees, estimated that over 4,000 died.

In August, 1839, John Ross was elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and Talequah, Oklahoma, was named its Capital. It remains tribal headquarters for

Trail of Tears - "nuna-da-ul-tsun-yi" by Robert Lindneux
Photograph (S-90-194-46 N10) courtesy of Woolarc Museum, Bartlesville, Okla./Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Springdale, Ark.

the Cherokee Nation today.

About 1,000 Cherokees in Tennessee and North Carolina escaped the roundup. They gained recognition in 1866, establishing their tribal government in 1868 in Cherokee, North Carolina. Today, they are known as the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

The Trail of Tears is significant for the people associated with Indian removal. Chief Justice Marshall established the legal basis for the qualified sovereignty of Indian nations, which in turn underlaid American policy for the next 150 years. President Andrew Jackson believed that the Cherokee Constitution infringed on the sovereignty of the State of Georgia and remained convinced that removal offered the only chance for the Cherokee way of life. He encouraged the introduction of the Indian Removal Bill, signed it into law, and refused to enforce the Supreme Court decision. Chero-

kee Chief John Ross who fought removal through Congress and the Supreme Court, petitioned for repeal of the Treaty of New Echota. In the two-year period provided by the treaty for preparation of removal, Chief John Ross and his National Party faction lobbied to expose what they considered to be a fraudulent treaty forced upon them by the Federal Government and the treaty party. Approximately 16,000 to 17,000 Eastern Cherokees refused to be bound to this treaty, which the Senate ratified by a one-vote margin.

Ridges, Others Move West

For a time it appeared that favorable action might occur in Washington so intensely was the Cherokee removal question debated. Because the majority did not sanction the treaty, most would not give up their homeland. The Ridges, Boudinot, and 600 other Cherokees, who supported the signing of the treaty, moved west on their own. Major Ridge decided to settle on the Arkansas border near Honey Creek, near present day Mayesville. His son John decided to settle near Honey Creek also. The Ridges opened a general store and planned to sell goods in their store to the new arrivals from the trail. Some of these new arrivals from the east were instructed to not let the Ridges and Boudinot live long enough to see profits from this store. As only about 2,000 had immigrated under this treaty, Martin Van Buren, Jackson's successor, assigned General Winfield Scott the task of forcing the removal of the remainder.

The Van Buren administration's emphasis on a rapid completion of the operation resulted in many of the Cherokees being removed from their homes and gardens without being allowed to gather any of their property or belongings. Forced into temporary stockades until they would be transported west, many died of mal-

nutrition, exposure, cholera, consumption, pneumonia, diphtheria, and other physical hardships even before the long journey began. Charles Hudson, agrees that the Southeastern Indians were a conquered people. First of all, they were biologically unprepared for the diseases brought in by the European settlers and unprepared to deal with people who desired to accumulate and exploit land and resources. Some were conquered militarily; all were conquered economically through the government's plan of dependency on trade for manufactured goods. Ultimately, all were conquered and forced to remove by the social system known as the "Old South." In this time period before widespread use of soil fertilizers, cotton production required new land to replace the worn-out unfertilized land that cotton had used up. As the Indians were not using their land for intense cotton production, the settlers argued that they should be removed. Hudson concludes: "Removal is a gentle, almost antiseptic word for one of the harshest, most crudely opportunistic acts in American history. It was an act that could only have been perpetuated on a conquered people."

It has been observed that, in general, the more traditional the Indian, the more easily they could be removed; however, the more non-traditional, the more stubbornly they resisted. John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, noted in 1824. One important result of removal was the development of factionalism between various groups of Cherokees that continues into this century. It is true that it can be traced to pre-1838, but factionalism became dominant upon arrival in Indian Territory. Basically, the factionalism before removal was based on geographic territory. "Full bloods" rarely came into contact with whites and represented Cherokee cultural traditionalism while the "mixed bloods" had whites as rela-

tives and were associated with acculturation. By 1835, only ten percent of the "full bloods" owned slaves, and their slaves numbered only four percent of the total slave population of 1890. This indicates that it was the "mixed blood" element that was adapting their nation to the neighboring white Southerners.

John Ross, the "Principal Chief" before removal and after removal, spent his life working within the white man's system to protect his people and their property. Although only one-eighth Cherokee, he and his "full blood" followers resisted all attempts of removal and never accepted the legality of the 1835 Treaty of New Echota.

Treaty Party Leaders Murdered

In June 1839, the pro-treaty/anti-treaty quarrel resulted in the executions of the Treaty Party leaders: Elias Boudinot (Buck Watie), Major Ridge and his son John Ridge. Major Ridge was on his way to the John Latta Home (now on the Prairie Grove Battlefield grounds) when he was ambushed on the road and shot. Elias Boudinot (Buck Watie) and John Ridge were dragged from their homes and killed the same day. The assassins were told not to listen to anything John Ridge had to say, "lest they be persuaded not to kill him." John was stabbed twenty five times and his throat slit. The horsemen who killed John Ridge had not yet completed their mission. They were now riding after Boudinot's (Buck Watie's) brother, Stand Watie, but he had been warned and eluded them. In the eyes of the survivors of the Treaty Party, and the Federal authorities at Fort Gibson, what had taken place was murder. From the Ross Party of Cherokees, this was a regression to the ancient Blood Law. No public trial preceded the executions of Boudinot and the Ridges; the all-important ques-

tion of their guilt was left open for endless generations to wrangle over.

Sarah Ridge Fees to Fayetteville

Sarah Ridge, John's wife fled to Fayetteville, Ark., with her six children and their teacher, Sophia Sawyer. Miss Sawyer would eventually founded the Fayetteville Female Seminary, which educated Cherokee girls.

Although treaty supporters accused Ross of ordering the killings, no evidence was ever found to tie him to the murders. Nevertheless, the factionalism increased as the treaty faction joined with the "Old Settlers."

Factionalism surfaced again before and during the Civil War. Generally, the "mixed bloods" were the slaveholders who brought with them the traditional culture of the "Old South." Thus, many were in sympathy with the Southern cause. The majority of the "full bloods" were non-slaveholders and pro-union, similar to the pro-union attitudes of the non-slaveholding white mountaineers of North Carolina and Tennessee. These divisions were not entirely clear as Ross, the nearly white slave owner, was the leader of the "full bloods" while the nearly "full blood" Stand Watie, was the leader of the Confederate Indians. Generally, the Treaty Party (also known as the Ridge Party) favored secession, slavery, and the Confederate government while the Ross Party (also known as the National Party) was pro-union. These factions continued to influence politics after Oklahoma statehood in 1907. The Ridge-Watie faction entered the Democratic Party and the Ross-National Party joined the Republican Party. Thus the Trail of Tears shaped much of Cherokee post-removal history.

The lives of the Boudinot, Ridge, Ross, and Watie families—their aspirations and tribulations, is well documented. Historians have filled volumes casting them as both villains and heroes of the Cherokee Removal. ❖

A Brief History of the
Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation
and An Appeal for Assistance

by Keith Newhouse

The Civil War was the most destructive and lethal of any visited on man in our history. How many killed in action, how many died of illness, exposure and disease, how many prisoners dead in prison camps, and how many unaccountable in burial grounds and horrendous action throughout those four years? Records were faulty, never kept, or lost. We will never know the totals.

President Lincoln answered the pleas for more burial sites by approving a National Cemetery System in 1862. Thirteen national cemeteries were designated that very year. Fayetteville was named in the original thirteen, but was not formally dedicated until July 2, 1867.

Fayetteville earned its place in the original thirteen because of action by both Union and Confederate forces during 1861-1863. Names like Wilson Creek, Pea Ridge, Elkhorn Tavern, Fayetteville, and Prairie Grove come to mind. The battles won Missouri for the Union side, and Prairie Grove's outcome made sure the Confederacy could never again depend on supplies and help from western and northern states.

The Fayetteville National Cemetery is located on the south side of Fayetteville at 700 Government Avenue. Originally it contained 6.11 acres with one lodge building (since torn down) and one shop building. Formally established in 1867 with the purchase of two lots for the princely sum of $350, it was designed in the shape of a wagon wheel with a flag pole at its hub. In the spring of 1867, with orders from the War Department, 2nd Lt. Placius Ord, 1st U.S. Infantry, the first bodies were disinterred at Pea Ridge. Not many bodies could be found

because of the unknown locations of the various skirmishes and the delay of time, five years before. One hundred and two bodies came from Pea Ridge. Others followed from Elkhorn Tavern, Bentonville, Leetown, Fayetteville, and, over 200 miles away, Sugar Valley, Wilson's Creek, and other sites.

Black troops were used to locate gravesites. Four men walked about with hands on each other's shoulder. When they found a low or sunken spot, they dug. Fifteen hundred and twenty-seven unidentifieds or unknowns were found. These, along with 532 known Civil War dead, were placed in three rows to make up the outer wheel in the planned layout. As a help with identification, those who could write sewed their names in their shirt collars. Today, there are 5,200 veterans and dependents buried in the original site which is surrounded by a four-foot brick wall formed from handmade bricks using native soil from the grounds in 1867-68. The wall is on the National Historic Preservation Register and cannot be changed without special permit. As of May, 1996, approximately 360 veterans rest in the new part.

Burials in the new space average 13 per month. This number will only increase with the groups from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and eligibility from the National Guard.

All that a veteran needs to qualify for burial is an honorable discharge. He or she is given burial space, opening and closing of grave, a grave liner, and a marker. As the Fayetteville National Cemetery, it serves a metropolitan area of 300,000-plus in northwest Arkansas as well as Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri.

Originally, 114 National Cemeteries were established. Fifty-eight of these are still open because they do have unclaimed burial spaces. Fifty-six have been closed but are being maintained. By the turn of the century, eleven

more will be closed, including Springfield, Mo., and Little Rock, Ark. Once closed they can never be reopened. Arkansas is the only state west of the Mississippi River to have three national cemeteries—namely Little Rock, Fort Smith, and Fayetteville. Fayetteville has the additional distinction of having a Confederate Cemetery, located on East Rock Street, atop Mt. Sequoyah. Six hundred and twenty-five Confederates from Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Arkansas are interred there.

Why was the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation (RNCIC) formed? To what purposes? What has it accomplished so far?

In 1984 it was apparent to all interested parties that Fayetteville National Cemetery would run out of room in five or six years. Various veterans organizations and others formed RNCIC. It received its certification of incorporation on May 7, 1984, as a non-profit organization. Its sole purpose was to raise money to buy land to give to the Veterans Administration to keep this burial ground from closing. Congress, at the time, was not inclined to appropriate money for this purpose. The officers and directors are veterans who work without compensation. Membership is open to veterans and non-veterans alike.

By January of 1987 there were only 108 spaces left. RNCIC had $22,000 available by November of 1988. In a desperate attempt to improve the cash fund, a fund drive was started in 1989 and the early part of 1990. The Fayetteville Evening Lions gave the fund drive a real boost with a $1,000 donation. Enough money was raised to purchase the first acquisition, property north of the cemetery on the west side of Government Avenue with lots west of it, totaling nearly an acre. All acquired property must be contiguous to the official grounds.

On August 1, 1990, RNCIC offered to donate this

newly bought land to Dean Holt, Director of Field Operations, support division of the VA, in Washington, DC. This action saved the cemetery from closing as it was slated to be shut down the last of October, 1990.

Endeavors of RNCIC were committed to four short-time options and six longer options, all on properties west of Government Street and west of the cemetery. In '91, with time running out on these options, John Lewis and Gary Garton, Bank of Fayetteville, showed their confidence in RNCIC by rescuing it with a loan of $110,000. Total needs at the time were $199,556. Negotiations were started during Ray Reynolds' tenure as Superintendent, and furthered by Karen Brown, the following Superintendent, who is now in that capacity at Fort Smith. Appeals were sent to Senators and Congressmen in Washington, D.C. John Paul Hammerschmidt, himself a veteran and a key man in veterans' affairs, got a grant for $135,000. With this help and money already raised, notes and obligations were gratefully burned. This land, plus the closing of University Street west of the cemetery, added about 5.5 acres overall. It is hoped this will allow space for additional burials until 2020.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has only recently awakened to the need to do something about its obligation—its commitment to all veterans. The Department recently purchased 16 acres adjacent to Fort Gibson Cemetery in Oklahoma for $60,000. Dedicated in 1868, Fort Gibson contains burials dating back to 1831. Soldiers who served in remote frontier forts throughout the Southwest, and Civil War dead are buried there. Nearly 12,000 are buried there, which might have been closed by 2005 without this addition.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is in the process of establishing national cemeteries in metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Seattle, Dallas-Fort Worth area, and in

Albany N.Y. Although Arkansas has 260,000 veterans, the Fayetteville cemetery will get nothing.

With great effort on the behalf of the Fayetteville National Cemetery, State Representatives Sue Madison and Charles Stewart managed to get $100,000 designated for RNCIC by the Arkansas legislature in 1996. Unfortunately, it became a part of Governor Jim Guy Tucker's discretionary funds to be distributed throughout the state. So far, only $40,000 of that has been received. The former governor's politics steered the remainder to Little Rock and points south.

The RNCIC is in perpetuity, and efforts will continue to obtain more land for further expansion. Any contributions are greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible under current law. They may be sent to: Regional National Cemetery Corporation, P. O. Box 4221, Fayetteville, AR 72702. ❖

Query

From Patricia A. Ware, 12021 S.E. 44th, Choctaw, OK 73020. Am searching for information on MARY EMILENE FRANCIS GRADY, born 1832 in Missouri. Who were her parents? She first married LT AMBROSE BLACKBURN who was wounded in the Battle of Pine Bluff, dying from these wounds on 20 Mar 1864. She then married in 1865 or 1866 JAMES A. CHURCHWELL, born 1825 in Tennessee. Where? Who were his parents? EMILENE and JAMES CHURCHWELL were parents of DEWITT, b. 1867; AILSEY "ALIE," b. 1868; and ADOLPHUS, b. 1872. Ailsey was my grandmother who died shortly after birth of my mother, her sixth child. Would like to share anything I have with anyone having a connection with this family. ❖

The Roll of Honor

(From the *Prairie Grove Herald* Sept. 10, 1903)

The following is a list of the ex-Confederate veterans, and their respective commands, who were in attendance and registered at the annual reunion in Prairie Grove last week. There were doubtless many others present who failed to register. This list was furnished us by Mr. T. J. Campbell, adjutant of the camp:

34TH ARKANSAS INFT.

Co.A.–G. B. Gibson, G. W. Nixon, C. W. Walker, Capt. Lee Taylor.

Co.B.–G. W. Morrow, S. N. Yeager, C. C. Seay, Wm. Mitchell, J. H. Parks, H. C. Pyeatt, W. C. Braley, Jacob White, W. N. Scott, L. Brewster, Capt. Geo. Gibson.

Co.E.–W. H. Pyeatt.

Co.K.–W. G. Gregory, J. H. Kidd, John Crawford, S. P. Russell, J. B. Howe, S. White, A. Dixon, R. P. Harrison, R. A. Sharp, A. Hendrix, K. C. Cummings, Dr. W. B. Welch. Surgeon: B. A. Carl.

Co.R.–J. W. Smith

16TH ARKANSAS INFT.

Co.A.–W. J. Flemming.

Co.G.–W. E. Pittman, L. Tankersley.

Co.I.–Sam Watson.

1ST BAT. ARKANSAS CAVALRY

Co.C.–A. Allen.

Co.D.–Martin Watson, H. F. Carney.

Co.E.–J. M. Kennebrough, J. P. Gregg, S. T. Cunningham, M. B. Sharp, John F. Dean.

2ND ARKANSAS CAVALRY

Co.H.–J. H. Cooper.

Co.D.–A. B. Lewis.

STERMAN'S BAT. ARK. CAV.

Co.K.–E. R. Williams, Newt Sanders.

Co.E.–A. J. Smith.

Co.G.–I. Montgomery Wilson.

P. R. Hurn, Co. F. 7th Ark. cavalry.

T. J. Blakemore, Co. K. 3d Ark. Inft.

J. D. Powell, Co. F. 3d Ark. cavalry.

John Mayberry, Co. F. Thompson's Regt. Ark. cavalry.

Dan Thomanson, Co. E. 17 Ark. Regt.

R. M. Dickenson, Co. D. 17 Ark. cavalry.

Thos. B. David, Co. F. 27th Ark.

John T. McClellan, Co. H. N.W. 15th Ark.

Al Horseman, Co. D. 2d Ark. mounted Inft.

S. R. Crawford, Co. D. Brook's Ark. Bat.

J. S. Edminston, Beaty's Co. Brown's Ark. Bat.

J. A, Ferguson, Co. F. Caroll's Ark. cavalry.

C. A. Collins, Co. D. Hill's Regt. Ark. cavalry.

J. H. Marlar, 2d Lt. 22d Ark. Inft.

T. H. Kirby and I.C. Kirby, Co. F. Brown's Ark. Bat.

T. W. Frost and James A. Reynolds, Co. K. Brook's Ark. cav.

W. J. Jordon, Co. K. 9th Tenn. Inft.

J. C. Bain, Capt. Co. A 16th Tenn. cavalry.

W. M. Estep, Co. E. 6th Tenn. cavalry.

J. W. Ellis, Co. I. Campbell's Regt. Tenn. (Mexican War).

R. F. Bell, Co. C. 17th Tenn. Inft.

F. W. Youree, Capt. Co. B. 2d Tenn. cavalry.

H. C. Carter, 1st Lt. Co. B. 12th Bat. Tenn, cavalry.

T. Y. Epps, Co. C. 63d Tenn. Inft.

J. A. Brooks, Co. C. 63d Tenn. Inft.

F. G. Kennebrough, Co H. 63d Tenn. Inft.

William Cass, Co. E. 5th Tenn. cavalry.

James Cass, Co. E. 5th Tenn. cav.

M. C. Bryant, 2d Bat. Tenn. cav.

J. C. Hollobaugh, Co. H. 9th Tenn cavalry.

R. O. Hannah, Co. F. 19th Tenn. Inft.

Fount Ross, Co. F. 45th Tenn.

J. E. Lake, Co. M. Tenn. cavalry.

Taylor Buskirk, Co. K. 8th Mo. Inft.

Chas. Booyer, Co. B. Clark's Mo. Inft.

W. R. Gibson, Co. – Shelby State Guard, Mo.

C. M. Henry, Mjr. 4th Mo. Cav.

H. P. Greene, Co. F. 4th Mo. Inft.

J. E. Trahin, Co. K. 3d Mo. Cav.

J. C. Toney, Capt. Co. B. 3d Mo. cavalry.

R. S. Cox, Capt. Co. E. 3d Mo. cavalry.

W. E. Rosser, Co. K. Will's Bat. Texas cavalry.

W. H. Thomas, Col. Martin's Regt Texas.

R. F. House, Co. K. 4th Tex. cav.

A. B. Goddard, Co. G. 14th Texas cavalry.

J. C. Cunningham, Co. A. 19th Texas Inft.

Jeff Johnson, Co. C. 29th Texas cavalry.

J. H. Carter, Co. A. Texas.

F. M. Finley, Co. A. Quay's Bat. Texas cavalry.

R. W. Parks, Co. C. 35th Tex. cav.

Chas. Irwin, Co. D. 7th Ala, Inft.

C. O. Farmer, Co. E. 16th Ala. cav.

Thos. J. Campbell, Co. H. Russell's 4th Ala. cavalry.

J. P. Harris, Co. A. 4th Ky. Regt. Inft.

J. C. Williams, Co. D. Palmetto Sharp Shooters S.C.

J. M. Hardin, Co. B. 27th N.C.

C. M. McClellan, Bryant's Bat. Beaty's cavalry.

L. B. Donald, Co. C. Phillips Legion Ga. cavalry.

Z. H. Lowdermilk, Capt. Co. H. 3d N.C.

W. J. Parrott, Co. H. 27th Va. cavalry.

I. A. Clark Jr., 1st Creek Regt.

G. W. Younger, Col. 33d Va. Inft.

John W. Jordan, Co. E. 2d Regt. Wortler's cavalry.

B. C. Campbell, Co. A. Lee's Body Guard.

A. J. Hodges, Co. E. 1st Choctaw.

George Simpson, Co. B. 2d Cherokee Regt.

J. S. McClately, Co. H. 2d Cherokee Regt.

A. T. Strickler, Co. B. 1st Cherokee Regt.

H. Little, Co. B. 2d Cherokee cavalry.

L. H. Scott, Cherokee artillery Ga. Vol.

G. W. Walton, Co. E. 59th Ga. Inft.

G. E. Brunk, Co. G. 27th Va.

S. T. Sharp, Co. F. 1st Cherokee cavalry.

J. D. Parks, Co. L. 2d Ky. Morgan.

W. R. Wallace, Co. K. 1st Ky. cavalry.

J. T. Eason, Co. I. 17th Miss. Barksdale Brig. A. N. Va.

Hiram Walker, Knox's Co. McCray's Regt.

W. P. Patterson, Co. H. 4th n.c.

T. W. Davis, Co. A. Poindexter's Regt.

W. S. Tunstill and J. T. Tunstill, Co. G. 1st Trans-Miss. Regt.

Junius Jordon, Eufaula Battery. A.T.

J. R. Youree, Adj. Bates Sharpshooters.

J. P. Moore, Co. E. 1st Cal.

D. W. Adams, honorary member.

There was a call for mothers of Confederate soldiers and to this call three responded, Mrs. Mary Shoffner and Mrs. Margaret Ross, the names of the third one of these was not obtained. It is very gratifying to the camp to have the mothers attend these Reunions. They are proud of such an honor for they realize that the day is fast approaching when the mothers of Confederacy will have passed away. ❖

Query

From Mary R. Pinckney, 801 Hickory St., Llano, TX 78643-2009. Searching for the parents of my g-grandmother, MARY CATHERINE NEWMAN, b. Tenn. 12 Jan 1814, m. ZACHARIAH HOLCOMB (as his 2nd wife) on 9 Oct 1836, Benton Co., Ark. Unable to obtain the official marriage record, but this info taken from family Bible and other records. Could Catherine have been the daughter of JOHN NEWMAN and SABRY LOWDER who applied for a marriage license 3 March 1812 in Williamson Co., Tenn. In 1834, SABRA NEWMAN, perhaps a widow, made a $200 payment as cash entry No. 199, dated 8 Nov 1834, in Washington Co., Ark., on 160 acres at $1.25 per acre, making a statement as to her cultivation of the land in 1833. ❖

WILLIAMS PIONEER CEMETERY MARKED

by Dorothy Ware Wilson

As a result of a book published in 1995, *Rial Williams' Thirty-One Children*, (reviewed in Nov. 1995 *Flashback*) a desired project has been completed. Through donations of money and labor from descendants, a labeled monument has finally been installed at the small, rural, graveyard where family members have been sleeping peacefully for over one hundred and fifty years.

The present owner, elderly but alert and hard-working Vernon Phillips (a direct descendant of the original homesteaders) showed the writer the location of the family graves on a quiet, lovely knoll in open pastureland, overlooking Richland Creek in eastern Washington County. Vernon has lived his entire lifetime on this farm between Goshen and Tuttle, as did his father Wood Phillips, so had been well aware of the graves.

For more than a century, the family cemetery was marked by a man-made formation of large sandstone rocks, twenty feet long by four feet wide, and about a foot above ground level. A short distance north of this rock structure is what appeared to be a baby's grave, topped with a two by three foot flat limestone rock. East of the structure, a child-sized, chiseled, coffin-shaped rock could be seen, flat on the ground, without a name. In addition, there were at least three identifiable grave sites marked with vertically positioned stone markers. Livestock kept the area neatly mowed. If the graves had ever been fenced in, no evidence of it remained. In time, a large tree grew up in the center of the long rock structure, standing a silent vigil in the pastoral setting.

The pioneer Rial Williams was born about 1792 in Tennessee, and was in the War of 1812. In 1817 he married Orpha Garrett in southern Illinois, where their first

seven children were born, but two died young. They then homesteaded their Ozarks farm, ten years before statehood. They built a log cabin and set about the business of raising their growing family, and farming what eventually would become 700 acres.

Late in 1832, the death angel visited them again, to claim little Margaret in her fifth year. Hers was the first death we found record of, in old family Bible records. A year later, Rial Williams, Jr. died just short of his third birthday. In 1839 another son, Green Williams, was laid to rest at ten months of age. (One can imagine that by now there was a well-worn foot path between the log cabin and that sacred spot). Then on 30 Dec 1842, when their seventeenth child was ten months old, Rial's wife Orpha went to a well earned rest, at age forty-one. We know from their son Warren's letter that Orpha's mother (?Phoebe?) Garrett, from Illinois, were also buried in the family graveyard, but do not know the date. Rial and Orpha's first child, Sena Clark, could be buried there, with her baby. Sena died at age twenty-six, in June 1844 (from childbirth?), followed soon by little Rial Clark in August, probably the first grandchild. By mid-1846 widower Rial Williams second married widow Kitty (Sanders) Phillips, who had ten children. They had three more, but a baby girl died 12 Mar 1849, and presumably was buried in the graveyard.

Then came the Civil War. Daughter Elizabeth Phillips died in 1862 and could have been buried in the family cemetery. Son Moses Williams was killed east of Fayetteville, and his body was located by his wife and son, and buried by them, possibly on Rial's farm. Rial Williams died 12 Mar 1868 and was laid to his final rest with his family that had gone on before him (but Kitty was later buried at Huntsville). Rial had a few slaves in 1860, a 45-year-old mother with five children, from age

fourteen to an infant. Whether they left after the war, or stayed on with the Williams family and were eventually buried there too, is unknown.

The passing of time brings changes to living things. As the large tree fell or was blown down, the roots disturbed the rock structure, so lovingly placed long ago. The result could have appeared to a stranger, simply a rock pile of a few dozen scattered rocks. It was feared that at some future point in time, creeping subdivisions could overtake the beautiful setting, with its lovely view of the creek, and hills beyond. The thought of bulldozers and backhoes disturbing the graves was discomforting, to say the least!

A number of concerned descendants decided it was desirable to protect the family graves. A plea for donations, in the book, was answered by enough descendants, for a small, labeled, granite monument to be made. Lloyd Warren and Wayne Murphy, both direct descendants of Rial Williams, assisted by Richard Brown and Vernon Phillips, spent many hours of hard labor, rebuilding the original structure. The labeled monument was installed in the center of it. Near the visible coffin-

shaped flat rock, the corner of a nearby rock was dug out, and found to be a second similarly shaped flat grave marker. Both were raised barely above ground level, and head and footstones installed to protect them. Vernon said he believed there had been three such stones, long ago, but the third remained undetected beneath soil and grass.

On a brief, first visit to northwest Arkansas this spring, Nathan Boone Williams' granddaughter, Sally Williams, helped the writer plant some daffodils in front of the monument. With God's blessing, the flowers should emerge from the earth each spring, from now on, to help honor the noble pioneer ancestors resting in this graveyard.

It is hoped that the memorial marker will permit those ancestors to continue their peaceful slumber, undisturbed. Had it not been for them moving here and braving the frontier, we would not be here. They have not been forgotten! ❖

Juel Benbrook Hamblen Giles

1996 Citizen of the Year

This is first of three biographical articles that will appear in *Flashback* concerning the recipients of the award for 1996 Distinguished Citizen of Washington County. The three recipients of the awards presented at the October 6, 1996, luncheon were Juel Benbrook Hamblen Giles, Richard Baker Greer, and William L. Bush. Articles about other recipients will follow in future issues.

by Juel Benbrook Hamblen Giles

I was born March 1, 1899, in the home of my grandparents, Hosey Maguire Benbrook and Catherine Irvin Benbrook, in the flourishing town of "Maguire's Store" (called that by the postal department). Later after Hosea Maguire's three-story brick building went in, and a blacksmith shop, a school house, a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the school house on Sundays, and a doctor (Benjamin Franklin Williams)—Hosea built his Big House in 1856 for his bride, Louise Tramble, and they called it "Maguire Town."

Hosea's father, Owen Maguire and his wife, Mary, came with their three sons, Hosea, Green, and Jeff in the 1820s. Jeff was killed in the war.

My mother was Sarah Elizabeth Shumate, daughter of Bennett and Charity (Van Hoose) Shumate. I took my love of writing from the Van Hooses. They were all writers.

The first thing I ever wrote was about a little schoolmate at Harris. When I was 15 I went to Harris to help my aunt, Elizabeth Irvin McGarrah, operate the switchboard, which she kept in the corner of her living room. I worked at the switchboard before and after school and weekends when I wasn't at church or Sunday School. The schoolmate I wrote about was Hurl Toney who had

an attack of appendicitis. Some of the school children went to see him and the Toneys said he was doing fine and would be back in school soon. Well, he wasn't! His appendix ruptured and he died suddenly. It just about killed me that the little boy, not over 12 years old, had to die. I wrote an article and put it in the Fayetteville paper. Sometime later that I wrote an article about my grandmother's birthday and it was printed in the *Arkansas Countrymen.*

Aunt Lizzie McGarrah was one of the four girls of John Irvin and Susan Windsor Irvin (my great grandparents). They were from England. One of the other girls was my grandmother, Catherine Irwin Benbrook.

As soon as Aunt Lizzie adopted one of J. P. Morgan's "orphan train girls," Lucy Proper, I taught her to operate the switchboard. I went home. My parents were living at Walnut Grove then. They lived there long enough for me to meet the love of my life, Albert Hamblen. Then they moved to Fayetteville where my father filtered the City Water for 22 years until he retired.

A neighbor girl and I had decided, after a summer school course at the U.of A., to go to Ft. Smith and take a course in nursing. Of course I wanted to marry Albert but he hadn't asked me! The night before we were to leave for Ft. Smith, Albert came to see me off. He had been harvesting oats and had a little money and was feeling good. I told him I probably wouldn't see him until Christmas. He said, "Well, Juel, I have a new Springfield wagon, a span of young mules, and $300 in cash and I'm ready to get married. I might not wait for you." I said, "Well, I won't go then!" We married July 26, 1919 and spent the $300 on a honeymoon to Muskogee and Tulsa.

We came home (where I live now) and had scarcely gotten our wedding duds off when the superintendent of the Walnut Grove Church asked me if I would teach the

primary Sunday School class. So Albert and I both went to work in the church.

In the 1920s we were so busy. Albert had leased the church farm and had nearly forty acres of grapes, six acres of strawberries and was preparing to start a canning factory to can the beautiful tomatoes he grew. The factory lasted 25 years–until his battle with cancer forced him to slacken his work. Our three sons, Mac, Jack, and Adrian had married and left home.

Juel Benbrook Hamblen Giles

Albert and I were youth leaders at the church and I cooked for the annual 4-H summer camp for 13 years, beginning at the youth camp at Lake Wedington and then moving to Devil's Den. As youth leaders Albert and I took our little group all over the county to Harrison, Ark., to a Presbyterian youth church conference, to picture shows at Prairie Grove, to the U. of A. to hear Eleanor Roosevelt speak, and to the Christian Church in Fayetteville to hear Marian Anderson sing.

Besides working in the Walnut Grove Church and 4-H, I did lots of work in our extension club. There used to be cherries all around here and neighbors got together and picked and pitted them for each other to can. Somebody called us the "Cherry Belles" and the name stuck. We were a working little outfit. We cleaned off the briars and sassafras bushes in our local cemetery and we gathered garden stuff for each other, getting them ready to can. But our club had no money! So Albert helped us spruce up the canning factory and have

dances there until the weather got too cold. That ended our source of money so we went to the community building (the former schoolhouse) at Walnut Grove for our next project. We put in gas and electricity (with the help of our men). We made several tables and papered all four rooms.

Later, some of us got the historic little Walnut Grove Church on the National Register of Historic Places.

Years of work in the Walnut Grove Church and Cherry Belle Club claimed a lot of my time but I also belong to the Southern Memorial Association which owns and cares for the Confederate Cemetery Memorial Park on Rock Street in Fayetteville. Every year when we hold vesper services in June, I cut loads of flowers for decoration and have held every office in the more than fifty years I have belonged—back to a time when every woman wore white gloves to the monthly meetings. We still take care of the cemetery but do not meet as often.

Some of the things I have written are the history of the Walnut Grove Church for the *Rural Arkansas* magazine; articles in the retired teachers book, *School Days*; articles in the *History of Washington County*; and several eulogies for friends including one for Anne's father, Ben Johnson. I also published a book of poems, essays, war letters, and history called *Juel's Jewels* in 1993.

I am the only charter member of the six founders of the Washington County Historical Society; will soon write the history of the WCHS and give it to Ann Sugg.

I am now only an associate member of the Walnut Grove Church as after I married Frank Dinsmore Giles and moved over in Giles Addition, I then worked a little in his Unitarian Church. I write a little for the church literary magazine and did a few things for the young people's Sunday School class, but I am not young enough to work for them now.

Young people are so important. At Walnut Grove we had something doing for them until Uncle Sam stuck his index finger out and got all the boys one by one.

In addition to her three sons, Mac, Jack, and Adrian Hamblen, Juel has three grandchildren—Jackie Hamblen, Linda Hamblen Lewis, and LeRoy Hamblen; and two great grandchildren—Gary Hamblen and Kevin Lewis. She has one sister living in Fort Worth who was 95 in July. One brother, Clyde Benbrook. was killed in France during World War II. ❖

Early Washington County Marriage Records to be Published

I'm a member of WCHS who is especially interested in the early history of Washington Co. Since no official record of marriages is known to exist before 1845, I am attempting to compile and publish a record of Washington Co. marriages that took place between 1828 and 1845. Marriages may be proven or implied, and an exact date is not necessary. The information can come from any source, primary or secondary or even hearsay. Sources will be included with each marriage entry. Ages or birthdates of the bride and groom, townships of residence, names of the bride's and groom's parents, and names of the person performing the ceremony, when known, will be very much appreciated. This type of information was included in many of the post-1845 marriage records, and I would like to be as consistent as possible with the later records. All *Flashback* readers are invited to submit pre-1845 marriage information to me at this address: Nancy Maxwell, 2709 Pin Oak Drive, Grapevine, TX 76051-2674. ❖

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